

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 24-26, 29-32, 37, 39, 40, 49, 73-75, 78, 82, 142, and 143 are currently pending in the application and stand rejected. Claim 1 stands objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, which should remove the Examiner's objection. Claim 143 has been amended to overcome the rejection under § 112 by providing the correct dependency and antecedent basis.

Applicant reasserts the previous arguments set forth in applicant's "Amendment B" filed on March 11, 2004. The purpose of this amendment is to place claims 1 and 143 in ready condition for appeal so that the § 112 issues need not then be addressed. Applicant intends to file a Notice of Appeal and the Appeal Brief after receiving the next office action, which will most likely repeat the § 102 and 103 substantive rejections of the subject June 23, 2004 Office Action.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By


Eric D. Cohen
Registration No. 38,110

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500

September 20, 2004